

ENERGY + CLIMATE + NATURE

XPRIZE Wildfire

Impact Phase

**XPRIZE
WILDFIRE**GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

Impact Phase: Bridging Innovation to Real-World Application

Around the world, wildfires are increasing in intensity, frequency, and destruction, and innovation to detect and manage wildfire events has not kept pace with the mounting challenges. Often, wildfires start in hard-to-reach areas and are fueled by extreme weather conditions like drought, high winds, and heat waves.

As the risk of wildfires increases, the cost to human life and infrastructure increases exponentially. Current detection and response times are too slow, insufficiently coordinated, and not precise enough to respond to the changing wildfire paradigm. IMAGINE A WORLD where the most effective technology is deployed to detect and respond to wildfires before they become destructive.

XPRIZE Wildfire is a 4-year, \$11M competition that is incentivizing teams to innovate firefighting technologies that will transform the practices of a crucial industry that have not changed in a century, and end destructive wildfires.

Launched in 2023, **XPRIZE Wildfire** attracted hundreds of innovators from around the world. Over years of system development and rigorous testing, XPRIZE Wildfire's independent judging panel has selected five finalist teams to compete in the **first ever large-scale test of autonomous wildfire response systems in June 2026**.

This full-scale, live fire test will demonstrate the ability of their systems to autonomously detect, assess, and suppress a high-risk fire across a 1,000 km² test zone, within 10 minutes, leaving decoy fires untouched. When fully deployed, **these solutions will shorten the time between detection and rapid response** to inform management practices and minimize negative impacts.

To drive the adoption and integration of autonomous wildfire detection and response into real-world wildfire management practices, XPRIZE Wildfire will implement a 12-18 month impact phase after the winning teams are announced in Q3 2026.

During this phase, XPRIZE will lead activities to:

- **Accelerate Adoption:** Drive innovations to real-world deployment by end-users, and pressure test technology in the market.
- **Support System Deployment:** Collaborate with experts and agencies to ensure autonomous wildfire technology adoption meets regulatory requirements.
- **Communicate and Collaborate:** Share lessons learned via convenings and case studies.
- **Coalition Build:** Create local and national cross-sector coalitions among companies, government, investors, and key stakeholders to optimize implementation.
- **Maximize ROI:** With each dollar invested in an XPRIZE resulting in \$60 in the market, create exponential value for the initial \$11M+ investment in the teams through mechanisms such as investor days and 1-1 investor matching.

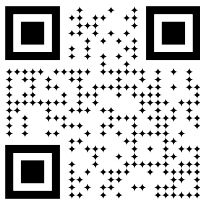
With support from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), XPRIZE will launch a call for proposals to match adoption partners with XPRIZE Teams to deploy technology through pilots within PG&E's Northern and Central California service area, where possible. These activities will provide important validation of solutions in an operational environment.

Throughout the pilot tests, XPRIZE will collect robust documentation to track the effectiveness of solutions such as time to detect/suppress, number of fires detected, and accuracy of response. After the impact phase, XPRIZE will publish results and lessons learned with end users and the broader community.

The impact phase is the critical, final-mile to translate proven technology into durable, deployable solutions. By accelerating the adoption of finalist technologies, we can bridge the innovation gap to safeguard communities and ecosystems worldwide from destructive wildfires.

Join us in ending destructive wildfires by partnering on XPRIZE Wildfire Impact.

For more information about the impact phase and to explore opportunities to partner or support the initiative, please contact Andrea Santy, Program Director, XPRIZE Wildfire at andrea.santy@xprize.org.



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XPRIZE is a global future-positive movement of 1M+ people and rising, delivering truly radical breakthroughs to solve some of humanity's greatest challenges.